



THE CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

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CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

F R O M

THE MAY 1983 MEETING

O F

COUNCIL

REPORT FROM COUNCIL

MAY 1983

CHANGES

For the past four and a half years your Federation has shared the services of the Executive Officer and Secretariat with the Co-operative Federation of Australia. This has helped the development of our State Federation and your Council is appreciative of this practical co-operation.

The Executive Officer, Mr. Bill Rawlinson, will retire from his position with the Co-operative Federation of Australia at 30th June 1983. In addition, your Council has decided not to tender for continuance of maintaining a joint national and Victorian secretariat after that date.

Your Council has been able to arrange for Mr. Rawlinson to continue services with our Federation to help us consolidate and further develop as the Co-operative service centre in Victoria.

1983 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Arrangements for this important event have been finalised and brochures are being printed. Incorporating requests from members and comprehensive search for top level speakers, an ambitious programme of interest, learning and pleasure has been planned.

The official opener

will be Mr. Race Mathews, Minister for Police and Emergency Services who, prior to entering State Parliament, was a member of the Federal Government. He is the Victorian Secretary of the Fabian Society with a great interest in Co-operatives and the Co-operative ideal.

Taxation of Co-operatives

is a specialist area where a better knowledge of the ins and outs of the special provisions for Co-operatives and business taxation, generally can often produce savings for a Co-operative.

An expert in this field, Mr. David Green, Taxation Consultant with Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, Melbourne, with legal and commerce degrees, local and international, and with considerable experience in Co-operative Taxation will be in charge of this part of the programme.

Co-operative Federation Services

This topic is of increasing importance, not only to improve needed services to members, but also to increase operating revenue to meet increased costs.

The Co-operative Federation of New South Wales has developed into a sophisticated organisation with staff and services providing a wide range of service and revenue for that Federation and its members.

Mr. Bruce Freeman, Executive Officer of the N.S.W. Co-operative Federation, who will present this segment was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 1981 and visited many overseas countries for study of Co-operatives and Co-operative organisations.

Strategies for Co-operative Directions and Managers

The afternoon session from 2 to 5 p.m. will be a workshop session for which the Council has engaged Professor David Downey.

Professor Downey is coming from Purdue University in the U.S.A. where he is Professor of Agricultural Economics and Business Management. As part of his co-operative extension services responsibilities at the University he has been deeply involved in developing management programmes for Boards of Directors of Co-operatives and producer organisations in the U.S.A. for the past 10 years.

This is his third visit to Australia so he is familiar with common problems of Co-operatives here and in his own country. In the U.S.A. he sees a more positive approach to solving the problems and creating better Co-operatives. He will give us the benefit of that experience.

Social Get-together

The Conference, having started with the business side of the Federation will end on a social note over wine and cheese.

Remember!

Attendance costs are tax deductible.

Nomination fees are reduced by 40% for each nominee after the first from one organisation.

There is ample free car parking space at Olympic Park.

Nomination Fee

\$50 per head for first and \$30 per head for subsequent nominees from same organisation.

1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

Immediately prior to the official opening of the Conference the 1st Annual General Meeting of the recently incorporated Federation will be held. Formal notice will be issued in due course. The agenda includes election of Directors.

The first Directors, whose names were advised in our report from the April 1983 Council meeting, drew lots to establish retirement dates. Those to retire at the 1983 Annual General Meeting are

Mr. Niel Black
Mr. Ted Long
Mr. Jack Mitchell
Mr. Geoff Simm

CO-OPERATION IN VICTORIA

MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION PAPER

The Co-operative Federation made submissions to the Registrar in September 1982 for several specified amendments to the Co-operation Act 1981. Submissions to the Co-operative Societies Advisory Council have also been made on the need in Victoria for promotion and member and community education in basic Co-operation and application of co-operative philosophy to Co-operative business practice.

The Ministry, administering the Co-operation Act, has prepared a comprehensive discussion paper covering a wide range of co-operative organisation related topics including matters raised by the Federation. This has been widely distributed and comments are invited from all interested parties.

Amendments to the Co-operation Act will be considered after all submissions commenting on the discussion paper have been received.

If any Co-operative - Company or Society - in Victoria has any proposals for legislation or organisational change or if any Co-operative would like a copy of the discussion paper for study and comment please let the Federation know.

EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVES

Like most Co-operatives participating in the Employment Co-operatives Development Programme the Federation has had discussions with the consultants engaged by the Minister Employment and Training's Evaluation Committee. The Federation discussed legislative changes considered desirable to enable Work Co-operatives to operate in the democratic way they desire and, at the same time, conform to the Co-operation Act. The Federation also expressed support for the informal association of members of Work Co-operatives and expressed the view that the Federation favours a joint operation of Advisory services in the Programme rather than the present division of responsibilities.